

Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of claims follows, with indicated amendments:

A complete list of pending claims follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A wire rope and socket combination, comprising:

a wire rope socket, wherein the wire rope socket is internally threaded;

a rope formed of strands of twisted wires extending into the wire rope socket;

one or more of the strands of the twisted wires being bent over 180 degrees within the wire rope socket;

one or more of the strands of the twisted wires remaining unbent and generally straight within the wire rope socket, wherein the selection of the number of strands of twisted wire bent over 180 degrees and the selection of the number of strands of twisted wire remaining unbent are made to set the breaking strength of the wire rope socket; and

babbit securing the rope in the wire rope socket.

2. (Previously Amended) The wire rope and socket combination of claim 1, wherein the wire rope socket has a tapered bore, and the bent strands are bent in the direction of narrowing of the tapered bore.

3. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a wire rope socket, the method comprising the steps of:

bending one or more but not all of the strands of a rope formed of strands of twisted wires over 180 degrees to form bent strands;

inserting the rope and bent strands into a wire rope socket; and

pouring molten babbit into the wire rope socket to secure the rope in the wire rope socket.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 3 in which the wire rope socket has a tapered bore, and the bent strands are bent in the direction of narrowing of the tapered bore.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing wire rope sockets of variable breaking strength, the method comprising the steps of:

repeating the method steps of claim 3 to build several wire rope sockets having different numbers of bent strands;

testing the breaking strength of the several wire rope sockets to obtain a relationship between number of bent strands and breaking strength of the wire rope socket; and

selecting the number of bent strands in a wire rope socket according to a desired breaking strength of the wire rope socket.